Privacy of Care

735.1 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This policy recognizes that inmates have a right to privacy and confidentiality regarding their health-related issues. It also recognizes inmates' right to health care services that are provided in such a manner as to ensure that privacy and confidentiality, and encourage inmates use and trust of the facility's health care system.

735.1.1 DEFINITION

Definitions related to this policy include:

Clinical encounters - Interactions between inmates and health care professionals involving a treatment and/or an exchange of confidential health information.

735.2 POLICY

It is the policy of this office that, in order to instill confidence in the health care system by the inmate population, all discussions of health-related issues and clinical encounters, absent an emergency situation, will be conducted in a setting that respects the inmate's privacy and encourages the inmate's continued use of health care services.

735.3 CLINICAL EVALUATIONS

Emergency evaluations and rendering of first aid should be conducted at the site of the emergency, if reasonably practicable, with transfer to the medical clinic or emergency room as soon as the inmate is stabilized.

Inmates should, when available have a same-sex escort for encounters with an opposite-sex qualified health care professional.

Custody personnel should only be present to provide security if the inmate poses a risk to the safety of the qualified health care professional or others.

735.4 REPORTING INAPPROPRIATE ACCESS OF MEDICAL INFORMATION

The Chief Deputy of Corrections and the contract medical provider shall establish a process for staff, inmates or any other persons to report the improper access or use of medical records.

735.5 TRAINING

All corrections personnel, interpreters and qualified health care professionals who are assigned to a position that enables them to observe or hear qualified health care professional/inmate encounters shall receive appropriate training on the importance of maintaining confidentiality when dealing with inmate health care. The Training Manager shall be responsible for scheduling such training and for maintaining training records that show the employee attended, in accordance with established records retention schedules.

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